[President.]

Bearing all these things in mind, Government will proceed on the lines indicated. Government will proceed in the fervent hope that the communities will cease to think of these matters as the prerogatives held fast by one community which have to be snatched away from that community. Government will work for the creation of a new mentality based on just and equitable treatment and based on a recognition of the need to leve up the whole community in the matter of opportunities for service, preferment and distinction; Government will try to do even justice. In doing its duty, Government are confronted with one or two difficulties. I have found that the system of recommendations here is more widespread and rife than anywhere else within my experience. During 30 years of public life, I have not seen anything like what is obtaining here. The industry displayed in discovering all one's relations and friends is both amazing and melancholy. I have got letters from relations and friends in Northern India and friends in England in respect, not only of appointments and promotions, but even of registries of land. When such letters come, they are and will be sent to the Secretariat with the direction that as far as possible the recipients of those letters are not to be treated preferentially, but their claims are to be postponed to really deserving cases. Everyone who relies on chits will be penalised but not so as to produce injustice.

The Honourable members of this House, who are the custodians of the dignity of this House, and not only of the House but of the whole country, would, I hope, set their face resolutely against this kind of lobbying and recommendations. If that is borne in mind, it will, I hope, also be borne in mind that Government seek honestly to be fair to all communities. They may succeed or fail, but Government are as apt as other human beings and institutions to err perhaps more apt to err. Let them be judged with strictness but also with comprehension of their difficulties. Let us hope that the future will usher in an era of mutual trust and communal fairness in thought and deed without which the future of the State and of our country will be dark and gloomy indeed.

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

FEE CONCESSION.

MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL: Sir, I move the following resolution :

This Assembly recommends to the Government that fee concession for education should be granted to communities solely on the basis of their economic condition.

Before I proceed to speak on this resolution, I wish to know from Government whether they have passed any orders recently on the subject.

PRESIDENT: As a matter of fact, representations have been received from very reputable and important quarters on this matter. It is under consideration and final orders are expected to be issued within a fortnight.

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MR. JOSEPH VITHAYATHIL: If that is so, I do not want to move the resolution.

PRESIDENT: Perhaps so. As the House will be meeting very shortly, probably early in January, it will be better to discuss the matter then as orders are likely to be passed before that.

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

The following resolution was not moved:

Abolition of export duty on cocoanut products.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: This Assembly recommends to the Government to abolish the export duty on cocoanuts and cocoanut products:

PUBLIC HOLIDAY TO COMMEMORATE TEMPLE ENTRY PROCLAMATION.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Sir, I beg to move the following resolution:

This Assembly recommends to the Government that one day in every year be declared a public holiday in consideration of the ever-lasting importance of the historic Temple Entry Proclamation.

Sir, in doing so, I am only voicing the general, I may say, the universal opinion of the country that the day on which the Temple Entry Proclamation, that great charter of liberty, was granted by our Gracious Sovereign, should be commemorated. An idea is gaining ground that a new era to be called the Sri Chitra Era be inaugurated from one end of India to the other. We are witnessing genuine demonstrations of joy and thankfulness. The Madras Assembly has, as we are all aware, passed a resolution congratulating His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore. This is the first time in the history when a representative Assembly in British India has adopted a motion in appreciation of a measure of reform promulgated by an Indian Ruler. The world is showing an ever increasing appreciation of the noble impulses and the solid achievements of our beloved Sovereign.

More than a thousand years ago, Sri Sankara carried the torch of culture, far and wide, from Kaladi to the Himalayas. The culture of India has been reared on the steel frame of the south.

We rejoice and the world rejoices that it had been given to His Highness Sri Chitra Tirunal to remove the dust of ages from the Hindu Religion and to set humanity again on its onward march of progress. The event which this resolution seeks to commemorate is grander and more far reaching than those which formed the foundation of the Kollam Era or the Vikrama Era. Here is an example of a pious Hindu Sovereign, the representative of the most ancient ruling dynasty in India, a model for others and an example for all time to come.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I do not want to interrupt the honourable member, but I may inform him that that question is under consideration. Government would be glad to know the general views of this House and it is a matter of accepted significance that there need be no elaborate debate on the matter.

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